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(54) Power management method for use in a wireless local area network (LAN)

(57) In a wireless network containing battery powered stations, one station is designated as a control point (CP). Each of the remaining stations has two operating modes: an active mode in which it receives and transmits messages, and an inactive or sleep mode which incurs reduced power consumption. The Control Point periodically transmits a beacon signal, and each station switches to its active mode to receive at least some of these beacon signals. A beacon signal may indicate that data is available for transmission to a particular station (from another station), in which case that particular station then broadcasts a message to indicate that it is awake and can receive messages. A beacon signal also indicates whether a broadcast period is in progress, and time to elapse until a next possible broadcast period will commence; if the Control Point has previously received and stored any broadcast messages it will re-broadcast them during the next following broadcast period and the remaining stations will react by remaining in active mode for the duration of that period.

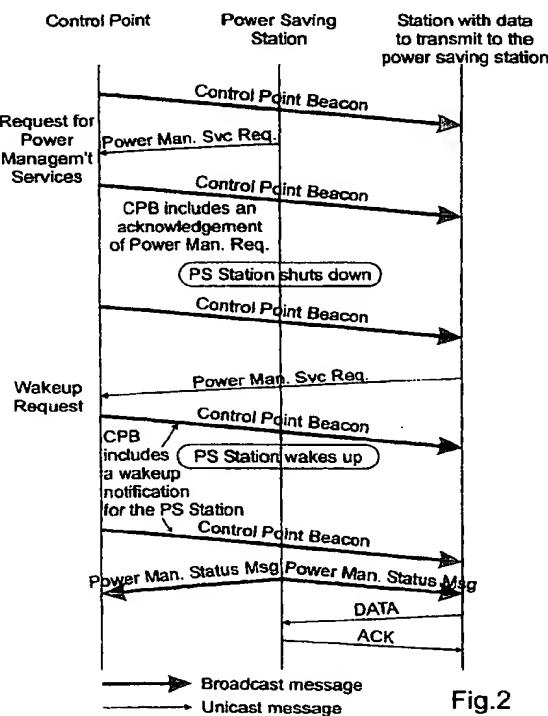


Fig.2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 98 30 7654

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)		
A	<p>SIVALINGAM K M ET AL: "Low power link and access protocols for wireless multimedia networks" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1997, IEEE 47TH PHOENIX, AZ, USA 4-7 MAY 1997, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 4 May 1997 (1997-05-04), pages 1331-1335, XP010229012 ISBN: 0-7803-3659-3 * abstract * * paragraph '0003! *</p> <p>US 5 371 734 A (FISCHER MICHAEL A) 6 December 1994 (1994-12-06) * abstract * * column 5, line 9 - column 6, line 68 *</p> <p>US 5 583 866 A (DEMANGE MARK G ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10) * abstract * * column 2, line 20 - column 3, line 10 * * column 6, line 24 - column 7, line 2 * * column 20, line 12 - line 33 *</p> <p>WO 90 06633 A (DALLAS SEMICONDUCTOR) 14 June 1990 (1990-06-14) * abstract * * page 36, line 9 - page 38, line 9 *</p>	1-5	H04B7/005 H04Q7/38 H04L12/28		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)		
			H04B H04L		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
THE HAGUE	16 September 2002	Lustrini, D			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention				
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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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